

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1, 4 and 8-13 are in the application and have been amended. Claim 3 been canceled. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112 for indefiniteness. Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kodama et al.* U.S. Patent No. 7,226,667 in view of *Sunada et al.* WO 2004/074667 / US 7,392,771. Claim 3 was rejected over *Kodama* and *Sunada* and further in view of *Hill et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,557,513 and *Oh* U.S. Patent No. 6,920,859. Claim 4 is rejected as being unpatentable over *Kodama* in view of *Sunada* and further in view of *Gobbels* U.S. Patent No. 6,182,629. Claims 10-13 are rejected over *Kodama* and *Sunada* and further in view of *Gohrbandt* U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0150476. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 3, now canceled. Claim 4 has been amended to include the elements of claim 1 and portions of former claim 3.

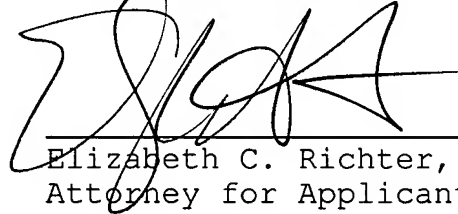
Regarding claim 1, the combination of cited references do not lead to a cylinder sleeve that has a constant wall thickness but, seen in cross-section, an elliptical outer contour, whereby the ellipticity is achieved by means of a variation in the height of the elevations of the roughening of the outer cylinder surface. The cylinder sleeve of *Hill* has an outer contour that is elliptical in cross-section which is achieved in that the wall thickness of the sleeve is varied accordingly. Furthermore, *Kodama* describes a roughcast sleeve having a roughening of the outer cylinder surface, whereby the roughening has a constant depth when seen over the entire outer surface. Finally, *Oh* describes a cylinder sleeve having a roughened outer surface, whereby the individual elevations of the roughening do have different heights, but whereby the elevations having different heights are uniformly distributed over the entire outer surface of the cylinder sleeve, so that on the average, roughening with a constant depth is obtained, as is also shown in Fig. 2 of *US 6,920,859* (*Oh* is the inventor).

Combining all of these references leads to a cylinder sleeve in which the result is achieved, by way of a variable wall thickness, that the outer contour, seen in cross-section, has an elliptical shape, and the outer surface is then provided with a roughening, which, according to *Kodama* and *Oh*, has a constant depth when seen over the entire outer surface of the cylinder sleeve. Since the present invention claims a cylinder sleeve with a constant wall thickness and variable depth roughness, the cited references do not lead to the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 4 has been amended to be in independent form and to include the elements of a constant thickness of the sleeve wall and a variable depth of the roughening, thereby achieving the result that the outer contour consists of four arc-shaped segments. For the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that claim 4 is also patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4 and 8-13 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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